



The President's Daily Brief

April 12, 1976

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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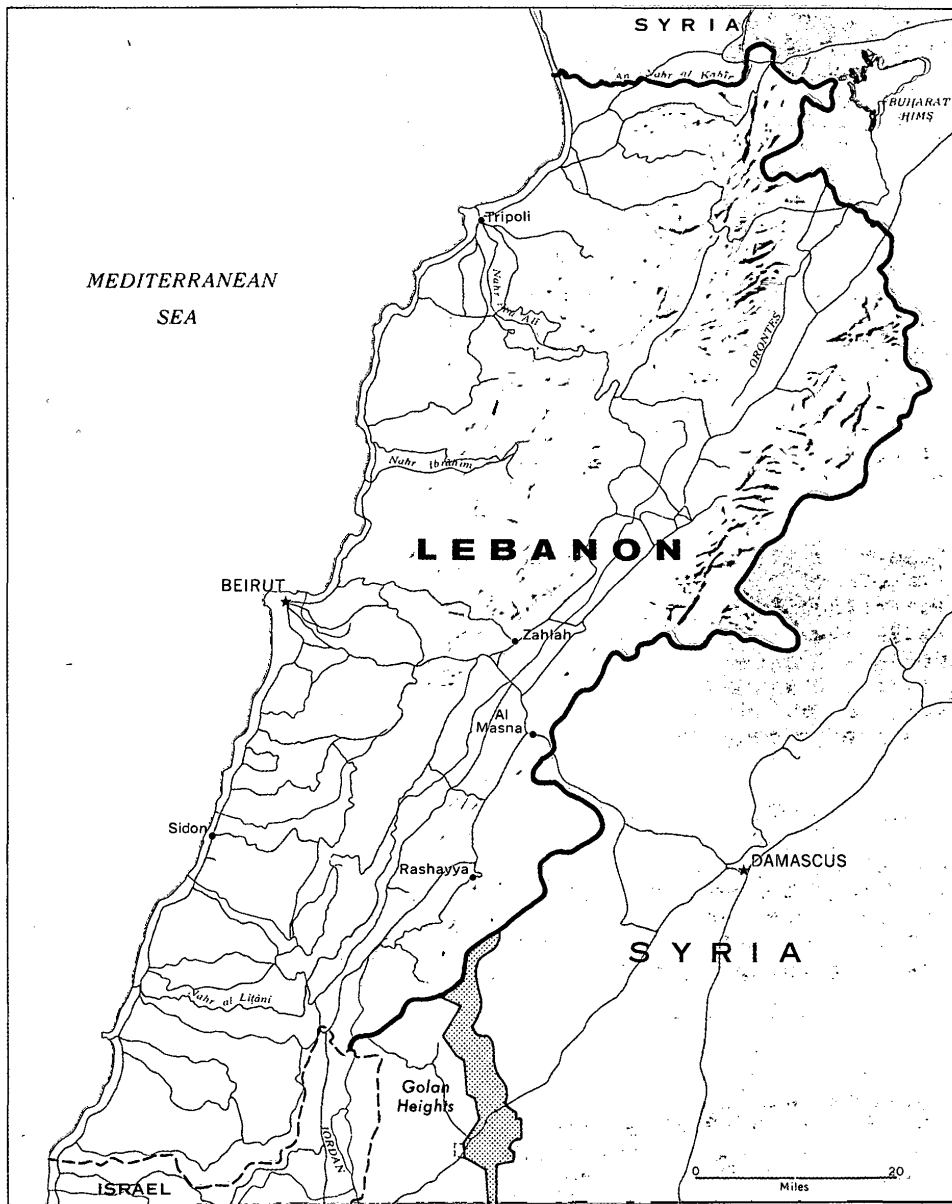
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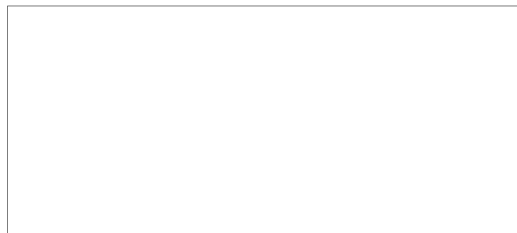
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LEBANON: *Kamal Jumblatt announced last night that the leftists have agreed to extend the truce until April 30.*

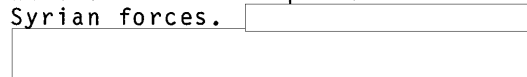
The decision partly reflects satisfaction with parliament's approval on Saturday of an amendment to the constitution permitting immediate election of a new president. It also suggests that the leftists have been intimidated by the movement of Syrian regular forces into eastern Lebanon.

Jumblatt has called for an election within ten days, but first President Franjiyah must sign the amendment. At present, Franjiyah is believed willing to do so and to resign quickly, but if the cease-fire breaks down this could change.

Syrian President Asad almost certainly will maintain the military pressure on the Lebanese leftists, although he may slow the movement of Syrian troops into the country. This would minimize domestic and foreign criticism of his Lebanon policy and help avoid an Israeli military countermove. 25X1



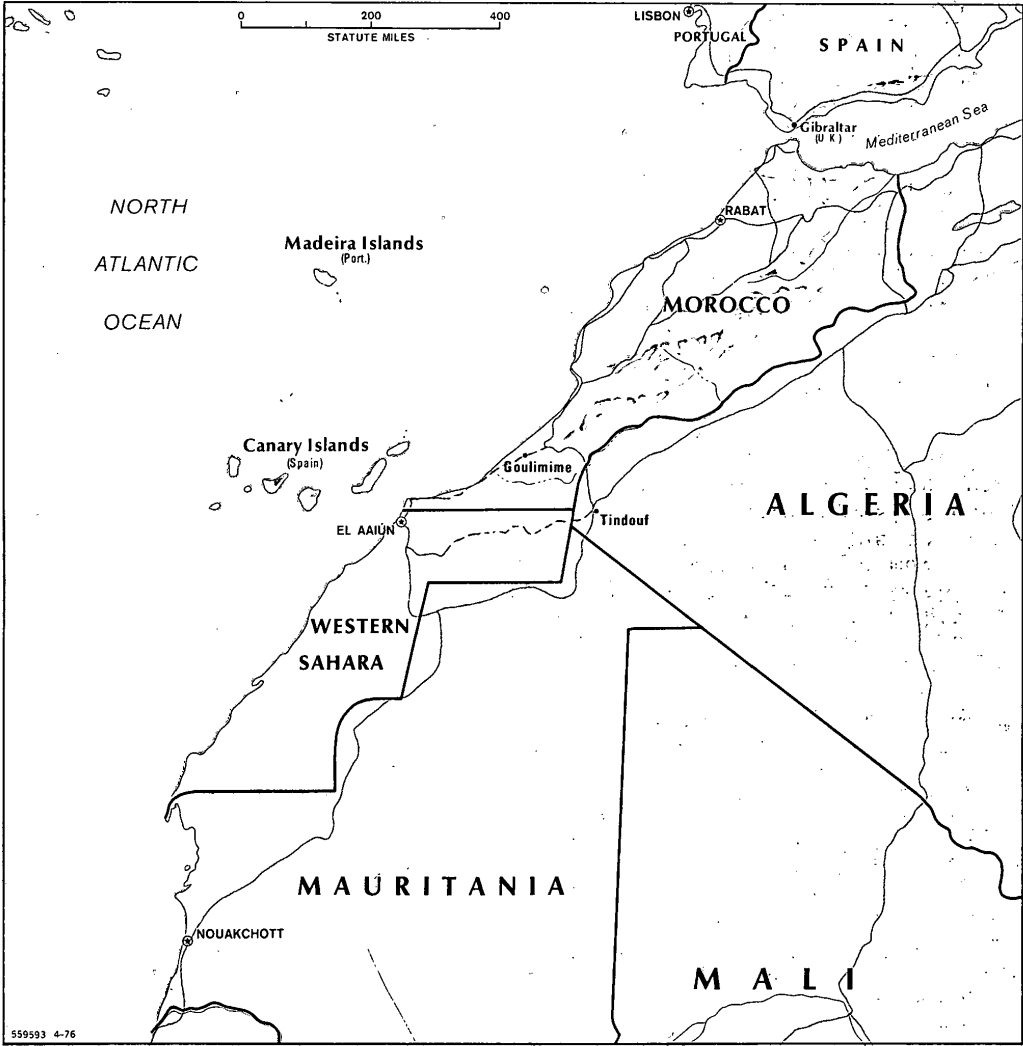
A Syrian cabinet minister last week publicly warned Asad against being drawn deeper into the Lebanese conflict, charging that Syria's enemies--meaning Egypt as well as Israel--hope to wear down Syrian forces. 25X1



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[REDACTED]

Approximately 5,000 to 6,000 Syrian troops are now in the border area. They have been drawn largely from the 3rd Armored Division. A large portion of the force is deployed along a 15-mile stretch of road from Al Masna to the junction a few miles south of Zahlah. A command post has been established east of Al Masna, just inside the Syrian border.

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We have detected no significant Israeli military reaction to the Syrian troop movements [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Is-
raeli aircraft flew reconnaissance missions over northern and southern Lebanon during the weekend.

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ALGERIA - MOROCCO -
WESTERN SAHARA: *Satellite photography of late February and early March shows that Algeria is continuing to strengthen its forces and defensive positions in the tri-border area.*

Major elements of two armored battalions, one mechanized, and up to four motorized infantry battalions, plus several supporting artillery units, are deployed in defensive strongpoints west of Tindouf. [REDACTED]

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Algiers also is increasing its air strength in the area. Six MIG-21 fighters were seen on a highway

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strip northeast of Tindouf, the first time such aircraft have been located there. Sixteen new aircraft revetments were observed nearby, suggesting that the Algerians intend to build at least an auxiliary landing strip. Seventeen MIG-15s or MIG-17s were at Tindouf airfield, about double the number previously located there.

Rabat, for its part, has completed a new natural-surface runway at Goulmime airfield, some 100 miles west of the Algerian border.

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NOTES

Candidates sympathetic to the Palestine Liberation Organization are likely to attract substantial votes in the Israeli West Bank municipal council elections today, although the traditional clan political machines appear to be strong enough to re-elect many of the conservative incumbents who are running.

The balloting will probably take place without incident. The Israelis are expected to impose tight security measures, and all but the most radical fedayeen groups favor holding the elections. Prospects for the Palestinian nationalists appear best in the West Bank's two largest towns, Hebron and Nabulus, where the conservative incumbent mayors are not running.

Councils name one of their members, usually the highest vote-getter, as mayor. Israeli occupation authorities can veto these selections, however, and appoint mayors they prefer. The Israelis may install traditionalist, pro-Jordanian officials if pro-PLO council members are chosen. Such measures could spark renewed demonstrations or outbursts of violence similar to those that occurred there in recent weeks.

* * *

Portugal's recent success in securing several sizable loans in Western Europe should strengthen the position of the democratic parties, particularly the Socialists, in the legislative elections on April 25.

The European Free Trade Association last week agreed to provide approximately \$100 million in industrial development loans to Portugal. The European Investment Bank also has approved loans of about \$42 million for electric power development projects and \$18 million for small- and medium-sized businesses. These two loans follow an earlier decision by the EC foreign ministers to lend Lisbon an additional \$230 million from the European Investment Bank.

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